THE NATION'S BEST THOUGHT

OR

POLITICAL COUNCIL AND OFFICIAL RESIGNATION METHOD

BY A SILENT VOTER

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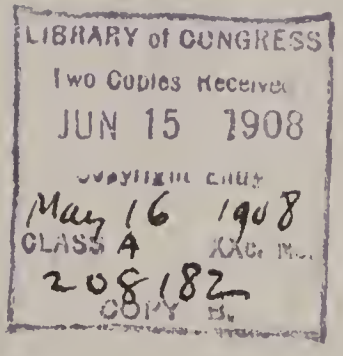

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PREFACE.

The Nation's Best Thought is intended to reunite the people with their government and awaken in them the duty which they owe to themselves and this nation.

It lays bare the breach which has been gradually creeping in between the people and their government. It presents a plan or method which, if adopted, will again make the voice of the people potent in government.

The ideas and thoughts embodied in this work are the carefully recast beliefs and opinions of the best writers and lecturers of the last twenty years, who have and are defending the cause of the masses.

A SILENT VOTER.

INTRODUCTION.

We maintain that the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Federal Constitution, viz.: "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," are essential to the preservation and welfare of our Republic and its institutions.

We recognize it to be the inherent and inalienable right of the people in their sovereign capacity to make and to amend their form of government in such manner and by such means as the welfare of the community may require.

We rely upon the intelligence of the American people, with an abiding confidence in their capacity for self government and their devotion to the Constitution and the Union. The people's sense of justice is the source and guarantee of good government. There is a standard of morality and conscience whereby all public questions are measured. More perfect will a form of government become, when every effort to make the voice of its citizens potent in its government has been realized, and the interest of the people paramount in its legislation.

The forces of civilization have been working with tremendous momentum in the past few years. This nation is no longer the government of thirteen struggling states, a mere fringe along the Atlantic coast,

with less than four million souls, but a vast, magnificent land, reaching its outstretched arms from ocean to ocean, with forty-six states, three territories and numerous island possessions, having a population of over eighty million and in prowess equal to that of any nation on the face of the earth.

The press of today, with its daily, weekly, monthly and extra edition on Sunday, holidays and others of importance, delivered at the door of each home; brings to us the news of the entire world of yesterday. The complex network of wires strung over our land like the palatial home of the spider, and the wireless stations bring the far North into direct communication with the far South, the Atlantic with the Pacific. No longer are the people isolated and in ignorance of the world's happenings. "Westward the course of empire takes its way," has been fulfilled. No longer do the people wait until their neighbor brings them the news that has been received from some other neighbor. No longer are the people in ignorance of the workings of our government. The progressive man and woman of today know at their morning meal all that happened and transpired in yesterday's session of Congress.

Our great educational institution is the foundation stone of the Nation. The character of our government depends largely upon the intelligence and virtue of the people. The public school system and compulsory attendance of the children in many of the states have created in the great mass of the people these desirable qualities, viz., intelligence and virtue. The soundness of all our social and industrial life is also due to the intelligence of the people.

With all these great advantages, the progress of civilization, wealth, and that high standard of intelligence, with all the careful consideration, foresight and prayers of our time-honored forefathers, with the protection of that ideal constitution and law, the people, the citizens of these United States, have gradually become separated from their form of government. The connecting link is missing. The good and honest public servants of the days of Washington and Jefferson are no more. The public officer no longer regards his position as a public trust, but as a private perquisite.

The people no longer determine by ballot how they wish to be governed, but merely signify by which set of politicians they wish to be ruled. Reform cries out from all the corners of our government, local, state and national. The Nation should have a new birth of political freedom and rights which may be asserted at any time and at every necessary opportunity, in act as well as in words. It should have the liberty to cultivate truth and righteousness in public affairs and unlimited rights to uphold the principles upon which our Government is founded.

The annals of our Republic are full of cases showing the corrupt action of public officials. Men, when elected to office, have acted treacherously to the people who elected them and to the cause they were pledged to support; men have usurped high legislative and judicial functions; men have failed to execute the law; men have used their office to induce other officers to ignore and violate the laws. When cases like these and the following are of every day occurence—public presiding officers marketing their rulings; men profiting secretly by their votes as lawmakers; men exposed

in jobbery; men forcing balances in public accounts; men misappropriating public funds; men enriching their relatives and friends by percentages levied of the profits of contractors with their department, and thousands of other like abuses, wrongs and crimes—the demonstration is complete. Public servants have become arbitrary rulers. Abuses will grow and the Government, instead of being carried on for the general welfare, becomes the instrumentality for imposing heavy burdens on the many who are governed for the benefit of the few who govern.

With the above facts firmly in mind, it is evident that the existing conditions and evils ought to be remedied and the disastrous consequences otherwise resulting therefrom prevented.

In order to accomplish this, the people must take the initiative and bring about a political reformation. They must either punish unfaithful public servants by imprisonment for life or else reserve the right, when voting for officers, of discharging them at any time during their term of office and have others to fill their place, thus making, at all times, the public officer subject to the will and wish of his constituents. The former plan does not seem expedient; it would necessitate the creation and enforsement of numerous laws in order to cover all the wrongs and misrepresentations of which public officers have been guilty. This, then, would be an extra burden upon the people and the Government. To the mind of the writer the latter plan appears the more plausible and effective. A plan or method has been carefully worked out whereby this political reform may be put into operation, a reform in which the people are in constant touch, in an

orderly, organized way, with their Government, and at all times have jurisdiction over their representatives. In this new method men and women both have equal rights and privileges in government. Women are here placed on an equality with men, because woman, through her activity and co-operation in the promotion of purity and honesty in public affairs, in all the past history, has always been a strength and an encouragement which must be acknowledged by all.

In order then, to obliterate official corruption in public affairs, to form a closer union between the people and their government, to provide an orderly way whereby the people may make their will and wish known to their Government, and the Government in turn may ascertain public opinion on any question, and to make this not alone in words but in reality a Government of the people, by the people and for the people, with equal rights to all and special privileges to none; the Political Council and Official Resignation Method is presented.

POLITICAL COUNCIL AND OFFICIAL RESIGNATION METHOD.

The Political Council is the missing link between the Government and its people. It is the organized way or means whereby the will and wish of the people may be made known to their representatives and vice versa, or in other words, harnessing public opinion for its utilization for the welfare of the Nation.

The Official Resignation is the remedy for obliterating public corruption and misrepresentation by requestig all candidates for public places to voluntarily

tender their resignations prior to their election or appointment to office, and when elected or appointed, serving under the same, said resignation to be in the hands of and under the discretion of the people. Resignation to read about as follows:

July 15, 1908.

To the Members of the Silent Voters Organization of the State of New York:

I, ...candidate for Governor of New York, if elected to said office, do hereby tender my resignation as Governor of New York, said resignation to take effect as soon as accepted by the members of the Silent Voters, at any time during my term of office, beginning January 4, 1909, and ending January 4, 1911.

.....

ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE.

In order to create the Political Council an organization must be formed of the people in each voting precinct. Said organization shall be known as the Silent Voters. This organization constitutes the foundation stone upon which this reform rests. It is alike in each precinct. It is its own regulator. There are no divisions above or below it. It is strictly non-political. The Silent Voters originate the reform, they enforce it and all the people enjoy it. They constitute the Court that passes sentence on the misdeeds of any public servant. Their greatest aim is to watch over and care for the welfare of the Nation, seeking to do the utmost good at all times to the greatest number. Their object is to make

the rule of this Government the exact voice and wish of its people.

Every American citizen, either male or female, over the age of twenty-one years, irrespective of political party faith, may become a member of the Silent Voters' organization of his or her respective voting precinct, by simply signing the obligation, which reads as follows:

"I....., do hereby declare myself a member of the Silent Voters of.....precinct .....County or City, ... State, and pledge myself, upon my word of honor, that I will neither vote for or support a candidate who has not tendered his resignation to the Silent Voters prior to his election or appointment. I furthermore agree to abide by the will and wish of the majority of the Silent Voters and the legal results of election.

.....

When ten or more citizens of any precinct have accepted the obligation they may meet and perfect a temporary organization by electing the usual of all the Silent Voters of the precinct, and one of their number elected as the Precinct Political Councilman to serve for one year, who then and there tenders his resignation to the Silent Voters, which reads as follows:

To Silent Voters of.....precinct, ...County or City, ...State.

I,.....do hereby resign as Political Councilman of.....precinct, ... County or City, ...State. Said resignation to take effect as soon as accepted by the members of the Silent Voters at any time during my term of office.

.....

When ten or more citizens of any precinct have accepted the obligation they may meet and perfect a temporary organization by electing the usual officers. At the proper time a meeting shall be called of all the Silent Voters of the precinct, and one of their number elected as the Precinct Political Councilman to serve for one year, who then and there tenders his resignation to the Silent Voters, which reads as follows:

On the election of Precinct Political Councilmen, the Silent Voters membership list of the precinct is closed. No new members will be admitted until the next following annual Political Council election. The Political Councilmen serve only those who are members and are responsible to them only.

ORGANIZATION DIFFERS.

The Silent Voters organization differs from any other like organization. Others generally consist of several divisions or subdivisions, etc., as county, district, state and nation. The Silent Voters have no other organization than that of the precinct. This constitutes the entire organization, nothing below or above. They meet once each year, elect one chairman and clerk, whose duties expire on the annual precinct Political Council election, thus leaving the precinct without officers. Should it become necessary to call a meeting, any member may do so, if a majority agree to it. The Precinct Political Councilman may act as chairman for such meeting.

POLITICAL COUNCIL ORGANIZATION.

County Organization—At an appointed time, the various Precinct Political Councilmen of a county, who have duly signed "Certificates of Membership," may meet and elect a Silent Voter as the County Political Councilman, to serve for the term of one. He serves under resignation the same as the Precinct Political Councilman, to serve for the term of one year. He serves under resignation the same as the Precinct Political Councilman, but subject to the discretion of the

Precinct Political Councilmen of the county. The County Political Councilman is only accountable to the Precinct Councilmen.

State Organization—At an appointed time the various County Political Councilmen of the state, who have duly signed "County Certificates of Membership," meet and elect a Silent Voter as the State Political Councilman, to serve for the term of one year. He tenders his resignation to the County Political Councilmen, who hold the same. The State Political Councilman is accountable to the County Political Councilmen.

National Organization—At an appointed time the various State Political Councilmen, who have duly signed "State Certificates of Membership," meet and elect a Silent Voter as the National Political Councilman, to serve for the term of one year. He tenders his resignation to the State Political Councilmen, in whose hands it remains. The National Political Councilman is only accountable to the State Political Councilmen.

City Organization—The various Precinct Political Councilmen of the city meet at an appointed time and elect, to serve for one year, a silent Voter of the city, as the City Political Councilman. His resignation is held by the Precinct Political Councilmen, and to whom he is accountable.

GENERAL DUTIES OF POLITICAL COUNCILMEN

It shall be the duty of the various Political Councilmen, each in his respective jurisdiction, Precinct Political Councilman in precinct, County Political Councilman in county, State Political Councilman in the state, National Political Councilman in the Nation, and City Political Councilman in the city, to solicit the resignation of all candidates, irrespective of political party faith, prior to their election or appointment. After all candidates have had ample opportunity to voluntarily tender or refuse their resignation, the Political Councilmen shall then proceed, a sufficient length of time prior to the date set by law for an election, to prepare a list of all candidates having tendered their resignations, and forward said list to the Silent Voters in the following manner: National Political Councilman shall forward the list of all national candidates having tendered their resignations to all the various State Political Councilmen. The State Political Councilman shall then forward the list of all state and various district candidates having tendered their resignations, together with the list received from the National Political Councilman, to all the various County Political Councilmen of the state. The County Political Councilman shall then forward the list of all the county candidates having tendered their resignations, together with the list received from the State Political Councilman, to each of the precinct Political Councilmen of the county. The Precinct Political Councilman shall then make the list known, for the benefit of the Silent Voters.

After election, when the successful candidates are

known, the various Political Councilmen, each in his own respective jurisdiction, shall file the resignations of all the successful candidates at some suitable place for safe keeping, or as directed by the Silent Voters.

It shall further be the duty of all the Political Councilmen to attend meetings, each in his own respective jurisdiction. Precinct Political Councilmen attend Silent Voters meeting and county meeting; County Political Councilmen, county meeting and state meeting; State Political Councilmen, state meeting and national meeting, and National Political Councilman attend only the national meeting.

Each Councilman shall keep a record of the transactions of his office.

It shall be the duty of the Political Councilmen to report any corrupt official of their jurisdictions to the Silent Voters. Should a majority of the Silent Voters be in favor of accepting said official's resignation, he shall then sign and file said officer's resignation at the proper place designated by law and notify him of the acceptance.

The Political Councilman shall deal exclusively with the majority of opinion. In reporting he shall give the number as shown on his certificate of membership. For instance: If a precinct has a Silent Voter membership of one hundred and a certificate for that number, and on a question they stand forty for, thirty-five against and twenty-five disinterested, the Councilman then reports one hundred votes for. The County Political Councilman shall then determine from the reports of the various Political Councilmen, if a majority is in sight. If so, he reports the whole number of members as indicated on the county certifi-

cate of membership. In the same way the State Political Councilman reports to the National Political Councilman.

All opinions expressed by the people must either be for or against a certain desire. All information desired by public offcers must be so stated that they can be answered by yes or no, for or against. Only one question at a time is handled by the Councilmen. If questions are submitted to the people in which the largest number are disinterested, the Precinct Councilman reports "Silent."

SPECIFIC DUTIES OF POLITICAL COUNCILMEN

Precinct Political Councilman—The Precinct Political Councilman shall keep himself thoroughly posted on all national, state, county and precinct affairs. It is his duty to ascertain the will and wish of the Silent Voters of his precinct on all the important public questions, and on others he deems necessary, said information may be obtained by mail, wire, personal interview, or as he deems best. In this manner the Silent Voters will lose but little time from their vocation.

He should keep a careful and watchful eye on all public affairs, and if they are not conducted as he knows the people desire them to be, he then shall report said fact to Silent Voters for instructions. It is his duty to immediately answer, if known, or else ascertain, all questions pertaining to the will and wish of the people, coming from the County Political Councilman.

County Political Councilman—He shall keep him-

self informed upon all public affairs, especially on those of his immediate jurisdiction. He should know the public opinion of his county on many of the important questions of the day. He shall determine the majority opinion of his county when questions are submitted for answer from the reports of the various Precinct Political Councilmen. He shall immediately forward all questions or answers that may come from the Precinct Political Councilmen to the State Political Councilman, or vice versa.

State Political Councilman—He shall observe and be informed on all public questions, and more especially on state affairs. He shall pay close attention to the State Legislature. It shall be his duty, when called upon, to ascertain the public opinion on any question, for any state officer having a discretionary or legislative power. He shall determine the majority opinion of his state, either on answers or desires from the reports of the County Political Councilmen. If a majority is already in sight, the answer should be sent immediately to the inquirer.

National Political Councilman—He shall keep himself informed on all national affairs and especially the proceedings of Congress. He shall carefully study all bills that are introduced, and especially those possible of becoming a law. He should be in a position to give information on any of the bills or any clause thereof. It shall be his duty, when called upon to do so, to ascertain for any United States Senator, Congressman or national officer having a discretionary power, the public opinion on any bill or parts thereof, or on any important question of national interest. He shall also inform the Senators or Congressmen of the

will and wish ofthe Silent Voters. He shall inform the Silent Voters on any national affair, when called upon to do so. He shall determine the majority opinion of the nation from the reports of the State Political Councilmen.

City Political Councilman—He shall prepare a list in city elections of all candidates having tendered their resignations and forward same to the various City Precinct Political Councilmen, who then forward said list to the Silent Voters. He shall attend to the affairs of the city in which the city is interested. He shall watch over city officials for the welfare of the people. He may submit questions to the Silent Voters when called upon to do so by the city officials, and also inform them of the will and wish of the people.

HOW WILL AND WISH ARE EXPRESSED.

Thus far we have explained the Political Council and enumerated the most important duties, all of which are subject to change by the Silent Voters. Let us now see how the will and wish of the people may be expressed.

For instance, a certain precinct is very desirous of having a national bill become a law. The Precinct Political Councilman, being one of the Silent Voters and in close touch with them, knows or else is informed of the desire; he immediately forwards this desire or wish to his County Political Councilman. The County Political Councilman then submits the desire back to the rest of the Precinct Political Councilmen of the county, in case they have not already expressed their opinion, and when the reports are in he deter-

mines if a majority of the county also favor said desire. If they do, he then forwards the desire to the State Political Councilman, who proceeds as the County Political Councilman did, to ascertain the state opinion. When secured, he forwards said opinion to the National Political Councilman, reporting each congressional district separately, and also the state at large, who then reports said opinion to the respective Representatives and Senators. In case the question or bill pertains only to the state, it stops with the State Political Councilman, who then takes it to the proper person or persons.

We see by this that there is a direct connection between the people and their government, and an orderly way whereby they may express their opinion to the Government collectively on any bill having been introduced. If any Congressman or Senator is in doubt as to the opinion on a certain bill and how his constituents wish him to vote, he goes to the National Political Councilman and gives him the question to ascertain. The National Political Councilman then immediately submits the question to the respective State Political Councilmen, who in turn submit it to all the County Political Councilmen, or just to those of the congressional district concerned. The County Political Councilmen then submit it to the Precinct Political Councilmen, and they in turn submit it to the people, secure their answer and send it back to the National Political Councilman by the way of County and State Political Councilmen. The National Political Councilman then gives the answer to the Congressman or Senator.

It works the same way in state affairs. If a legis-

lator desires the will and wish of his constituents he informs the State Political Councilman of his desire, who immediately forwards the question only to those counties in which the legislator has his constituents. In this manner the opinion of the people of only a portion of the state may be obtained without submitting the question to all the Silent Voters of the state. It works the same way in cities.

NO NEW LAWS NECESSARY.

No new laws are necessary or are advocated; the people are already clad in the sacred right and duty to vote and give their consent by ballot to be governed. In other words a candidate for an elective office must have the consent by allot of the voters before he can secure the public office. If the people withhold their votes, no officer can be elected. If the consent of the people is necessary, it must be conceded that they have also the right to stipulate the conditions under which they are willing to give their consent. The voluntary resignation of the officer is just as binding on him as the voluntary consent by ballot of the voters, given to him on election.

The resignation method, in the light of the Constitution of the United States, read in the sense of the Declaration of Independence, is just and legal and, if properly drawn, will stand in any court of the land. Why should our public servants have the right to resign whenever they desire to do so, and the people have no right to discharge them when they so desire? There is no reason whatever. The people should be able to quit an office by accepting his resignation just as well as an officer can quit the people. They should

at all times be on an equality with their servants.

The public officers of today have the right, and may use it, to resign whenever they so desire. Under this method the candidate aspiring to public office voluntarily tenders his resignation while yet a candidate and accepts therein the stipulated conditions laid down by the Silent Voters. The Silent Voters have the right to accept and hold such resignation until they deem it necessary to make use of it. On the other hand, a candidate has a perfect right to refuse to tender his resignation. The Silent Voters will not in the least have one objection to the candidate's action, but they will have good cause not to support said candidate, no matter what political party he may belong to. They can be certain that the conscience of the candidate is not clear; he lacks confidence in the people, and naturally they would have no confidence in him on election day. In all probability no candidate would ever be elected to office who has not shown that confidence in the people by being willing to serve under resignation, which is held in their hands, subject to their will and wish. And further, no candidate who is elected to office, who has voluntarily tendered his resignation, would go into open court and fight his own resignation. It would be a disgrace to himself and his political party friends and those who voted for him on election day. There is no danger of him doing that.

GOVERNMENT A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

It is a well known fact throughout the business world that the employer has the right to discharge or ask to resign any person in his employ. That this is the universal and common sense business principle is conceded by all. In fact, business methods are applied to everything pertaining to the supplying of the necessaries and even luxuries of life. Government, then, itself, is a business proposition. There is, then, no well founded reason why our Government should not be conducted on this great business principle, especially when it can be applied without the change of a single letter of law. The effort put forth by the people in instituting this method will more than be repaid by the good it will bear.

SAFETY OF POLITICAL COUNCIL AND OFFICIAL RESIGNATION.

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GOVERNMENT A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

The safety of the Political Council and official resignation method lies in the nature of the Silent Voters organization. They are organized in the smallest subdivision of our Government, each separately with a voice only in the precinct, no organization above or below them, the Political Council merely their agents, and in absolute control, without a vote of any kind, only serving as directed. They are engaged in all the various walks of life, of many religious views and different political beliefs. They become a restraint to one another, and the strongest and most lasting restraint that was ever set a people is the restraint that they themselves set on one another. Herein lies the safety. Being separated in the various precincts

throughout the United States, nothing can be brought to the surface by themselves unless it appeals to common sense and justice, doing the greatest good to the greatest number.

OBLIGATION OF SILENT VOTERS.

First. In the obligation the Silent Voters agree not to support a candidate who has not tendered his resignation. Should all party candidates tender their resignations to the Silent Voters, they then support or vote for whom they please. They do not put out candidates for office, neither do they, as a body, advocate political party principles, only as members of the different parties. They rely upon the existing political parties to furnish them with party principles and party candidates. They accept the results of election and make the best of it.

The political complexion of the Silent Voters as a body will be at all times the same as the political complexion of the political party that is delegated to power.

Second. The question suggests itself of how the Silent Voters' obligation will affect the successful party after election. In the obligation they agree to abide by the majority, wherever that may be, among themselves or at any election. For instance, if the majority of the voters, on election day, delegated the Republican party to power in a state, and the majority of the Silent Voters were Democratic, that would make no difference. Should the state go Republican and part of the counties Democratic, that would also have no effect. The Silent Voters could not change it if they wanted to, nor is there any advantage in changing.

They are separated in the various voting precincts following their various occupations, with a voice only in the precinct in which they reside. So it would be impossible to change the results of an election on point of party principles or policies. Just as an elected officer of today is the officer of all the people, both Democrats and Republicans, etc., so are the victorious political parties accepted by the Silent Voters. The political party delegated to power will run its outlined course. Even if an officer's resignation would be accepted and discharged, the officer to fill the vacancy would always be from the same political party that was delegated to power. The people, after election, will have nothing to consider except the welfare of all. Careful investigation has convinced us that the people of the present day are not as party blind and not as full of party hatred as our party politicians would have us believe they are. Four-fifths of the people of any political party are unselfish and fair minded. The welfare of the local, state and national government, in which they are deeply iterested, would be of a great deal more importance to them than the welfare of any political party or its set of candidates. It is an error to believe that Democrats or other political parties can not live and prosper where Republicans or some other party lives and prospers. The four-fifths of the various political parties, who are independent and unselfish enough to be absolutely just and fair, will always be in the majority in every precinct, and the one-fifth, which is narrow minded and selfish, will always be hopelessly in the minority.

Political party cranks would not alter or affect the welfare of the people in the least. Nor could they

become burdensome to the public officers. As long as the officer performed his lawful duty, the people would not desire to make a change just on account of the crank.

It should be remembered that in the new method there are no standing investigating boards. Dissatisfied party politicians or anybody else could not cause a disturbance or work up a conspiracy against any public officer with the object of having him removed. If any person should happen to feel wronged by a judge, prosecuting attorney or any other public officer, and go to the Political Councilman and make a complaint, they would not accomplish anything, as the Political Councilmen deal exclusively with the majority public opinion. There is only one way to proceed, and that is to go to the Silent Voters with their complaints, and if they convince a majority that they were really wronged, the matter is then taken up by the Political Councilman. If a minority opinion is just and right it will soon grow into a majority, but not until it does will anything be accomplished.

INFLUENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS.

With the presence of women as members of the Silent Voters, with their voices and influence, the Silent Voters will have additional strength. They do not lean as much toward political parties nor to party principles, neither are they as party prejudiced and blind as men are. Their power and influence will go with the independent men and public officers, especially if public purity or public opinion is at stake. Their voice as members of the Silent Voters organization is

bound to have a healthy effect on all public affairs, for the good of all the people. The fact that the women as a whole do not as yet cast a ballot on election day has also a tendency to strengthen the Silent Voters organization rather than weaken it.

It is a recognized fact that the women are the successful managers and rulers of the American home. The American home is the bulwark of the nation. When the home is safe, the nation is also safe. The successful party will have nothing to fear from the Silent Voters because women are members. The independent man or woman of the Silent Voters would cause no political disturbance, for their highest aim would be purity and honesty in public affairs, doing the greatest good to the greatest number.

NOT BURDENSOME TO FAITHFUL OFFICERS.

The Silent Voters do not impose upon any of the functions or duties of public officers. They have no right to, nor is there any need, that they draft their own laws, or even frame them. Wherever a law enacting body has been in session in this country there have always been plenty of good bills introduced which contained all the wishes of all the people. This country has never suffered for the lack of plenty of good bills. The Silent Voters select only from the introduced bills and then make their will and wish known to their representatives. This will immediately give confidence to the author of the bill. All the present day guesswork of whether the people want it or not will be done away with. When the author speaks, those who listen will know that he speaks direct from

the people and directly for them. He becomes a power that the Legislature dare not ignore. If any member seeks to destroy the object or intent of the bill, or make it ineffective by amendments, he is in a position to prevent it, by reporting the same to the people through their agents, the Political Council. He knows that the Silent Voters are such a power that if they deem it necessary they could send any member home who was trying to ignore the will and wish of the people.

The Silent Voters will take up the bill that contains their will and wish, and then demand of their representatives to support said bill. This is a right that the people have always had under our form of government, but never exercised. The time is at hand when this right must be used; the welfare of the people is of too much importance, just merely to rely upon the promises of candidates. Enough unredeemed promises have already been made to last forever. No more are wanted, all that is desired is to have the candidate's resignation before the votes are cast. It is the duty of the people to relieve the officers of the old system of doing t eir work on the hit or miss plan. The people are doing themselves, as well as their honest servants, an injustice by continuing under the present system, and not adopting a new one.

KEY TO OFFICIAL HONESTY.

Under the new method the political parties are relied upon to furnish the party principles and candidates. All are treated alike, and their resignations requested. If the candidates have all tendered their resignations to the Silent Voters, the question of

whether the candidates or political parties are honest or dishonest ceases to be a question. The responsibility falls largely upon the members of the Silent Voters, in whose hands and under whose judgment rest the resignation of the candidates. This is the key to official honesty.

It does not make a particle of difference as to whether the candidates are honest or dishonest, whether they are nominated under the primary system or in open convention, or whether they got their nomination in a straightforward manner or stole it. It matters not whether candidates have led honest or dishonest lives in the past; that is their business. But as public officers it is the people's business how they behave. It does not affect the Silent Voters so long as the candidate has tendered his resignation. And if a candidate has flatly refused to tender his resignation nothing is to be feared, his chances for office are not worth mentioning.

As soon as an official takes the oath of office he is that very minute subject to the people. If he practices dishonesty, the Silent Voters accept his resignation, and Mr. Officer is out. Under the new method men must be honest; they must carry out the pledges upon which they were elected if they intend to serve the pople; they must follow closely the law and work towards the best interests of the masses of the people.

The political campaign will be elevated by the new method to a higher plane. Campaign money will cease to flow in abundance. Indecency will be turned into decency. The truth will supplant the lie. Candidates will have no object in denouncing their opponents, as all of them would then look alike to the

Silent Voters, and when elected to office must give satisfaction. The campaign will be conducted on a level to that of the intelligence and virtue of the people.

ELECTING A SENATOR.

The new method does not impose upon the duties or rights of the State Legislatures. It simplifies and lessens their duty and responsibility and assists them in performing their full duties as Representatives. Let us see how the new method would affect a State Legislature in electing a United States Senator. The Legislature proceeds as usual, and as soon as candidates announce themselves the State Political Councilman is on hand to solicit their resignations. The State Political Councilman will, then, at the proper time, inform the Legislature of all those candidates having tendered their resignations. Should it occur that a candidate refuses to tender his resignation when called upon to do so, he is either dishonest at heart or else is planning to be dishonest, and above all, he has not that confidence in the people which all public officers should have. The Legislature has, then, a well founded reason for not supporting or electing such a candidate. Should it happen, however, that a member of the Legislature should favor or support a candidate who had refused to tender his resignation, thereby showing that he was ignoring the will and wish of the Silent Voters, and tramping on the good intentions of those candidates having tendered their resignations, the State Political Councilman would report said fact to the Legislator's constituents who, if holding his resignation, could, without further ceremony, accept it.

Thus it can be seen that the Legislature is just as free to choose a Senator under the new method as now, the only difference being that they choose one who has tendered his resignation.

It also makes no difference to the Silent Voters what political party is in power; how many candidates, one or fifty; if the candidate is many times a millionaire or a day laborer, a pious Sunday School Superintendent or a heartless corporation lawyer. All the Silent Voters desire is that of having the candidate's resignation, so that if he proves to be treacherous to the people and neglects to do his duty, he may be discharged. They also desire to reserve the right to express their will and wish to him through their agents, and also give him the privilege of ascertaining their opinion on any doubtful question.

In case a United States Senator resigns or has his resignation accepted, or if he dies, the office becomes vacant. It then becomes the duty of the chief executive of the state affected to appoint another. Here again the new method comes in and assists the Governor. The State Political Councilman is on hand as soon as candidates announce themselves, and requests their resignations. The Councilman then reports to the Governor all those candidates who have tendered their resignations. The Governor can then proceed to appoint whomsoever he pleases, so long as it is from the list of candidates having tendered their resignations. His rights are not imposed upon, nor is the new method burdensome or annoying to him. It is, in fact, a help to him; it relieves him of a great deal of responsibility.

Should, however, the Governor wilfully and maliciously ignore the people's will and wish, together with the good intentions of those candidates who did offer to do their full duty under resignation, and appoint one who refused to serve under resignation, it would be reported to the people. The people, holding the Governor's resignation, could discharge him and notify the Lieutenant Governor of the vacancy. In all probability it may never become necessary for the people of a state to accept the resignation of their Governor. It must be borne in mind that the Governor of a state is not wilfully hostile to the best interests of the people, especially when they hold his resignation.

POPULAR VOTE NOT THE REMEDY.

It has been advocated that the Constitution of the United States be so amended as to have United States Senators elected by popular vote. Three reasons are generally given:

First. The Senate is separated too far from the common people.

Second. It does not represent the common people.

Third. It is dishonest; it uses the rights of the common people for special privileges.

From these reasons we might infer the Constitution ought to be changed because they are not elected directly by the people, and that it is this that gives rise to the three objections. Then according to this the more directly on officer is elected by the people the more honest he ought to be. According to that, then, our local or state officers ought to be a great deal better than the Senators. Judging from the public

press, there is far more dishonesty practiced in state governments than in the United States Senate. The press continues to point out the misrepresentation and trampling under foot of the common people's rights in local and state affairs. The thieving and grafting and dishonesty of all kinds practiced in county and state is many times more to what one hears about the Senate. Popular vote does not make men honest. It would not improve the United States Senate. Let the people hold the resignation of the Senators and there will be no need of changing the Constitution. They will then be forced to represent the people honestly.

APPOINTMENTS.

Under our form of government there are a large number of appointed officers. This in itself is not a weakness of the Government; the evil comes in that advantage is taken of the places by men occupying the same. The appointed officers themselves are not responsible for the evil. The party politicians and party bosses are the ones that corrupt the appointed positions. Long before an election takes place, or even a campaign is begun, the politicians and "wire pullers" form combinations and political rings. They use the appointed officers as a personal asset. The best schemers build the highest fences and strongest cliques. There are always plenty of hungry office seekers and they are anxious to get in on the ground floor. They care nothing for the people and the welfare of the Government. All they want is the appointment. In schemes and rings of this kind the man that can han-

dle the greatest number of voters within the party is taken in by the bosses. Personal honesty and official qualification counts for nothing. Is he a "vote getter?" is the question. These appointments are generally made on the plan of "I tickle you and you tickle me," which is not to the best interest of the people. The writer knows no reason why this should be tolerated any longer.

As soon as a party has been delegated to power the office seeker goes to the elected officer who has the appointments to make by law, and applies for a position. He comes with a strong endorsement of the party bosses and professional wire pullers, whose influence he brings to bear upon the officer. The officer has no recourse; he recognizes the part played by the bosses, wire pullers and others in his own election. He is helpless; he cannot choose whom he likes; he is forced to appoint these hungry office seekers. Many times it happens that there are several applicants for the same office. Then there is a family quarrel. These applicants file charges and counter charges against each other, until all are proved scoundrels, reprobates and who knows what all.

For instance, the President of the United States, according to law, has a large number of places to fill with appointed men. In many cases he knows nothing about the wishes of the people whom these appointed officers are to serve. At the very best he can only make a guess. He has nothing to guide him except the advice of some untrustworthy wire puller, who has no interest at heart than himself and those of his kind. Is it not a fact, or ought it not to be a fact, that these small "wire pulling" affairs should be below the dig-

nity of our President? It certainly must be annoying to him, at least.

The new method will do away with all these obstacles and irregularities in appointed offices. As soon as an office seeker makes his appearance the National Political Councilman, if the office is to be filled by the President, if directed to do so by the Silent Voters, may be on hand with resignation blanks for all to sign. Those tendering their resignations will be made known to the President, who may then appoint whom he likes of the list. Should there be any charges pending against any of the applicants, he may refer the whole matter to the Political Councilman for a people's choice. It makes no difference from what state they come, the Political Council in their respective jurisdictions would thresh all candidates down to a people's choice, and forward same to the President. Thus we see the President has been relieved of a great deal of trouble and responsibility. It works the same way with any other officers who have appointments to make.

The political party bosses and their influence have been, for instance, a ruling factor in the appointment of men to serve as judges on the bench. Men seeking these appointments very often have no other qualification than that of strong political graft and a good endorsement of men who desire them to be out of their way politically. To this, many of the evils in our courts, presided over by these appointed officers of the present day, can be traced. In places of such great importance men should not seek the office, but the office seek the man. There is no reason why laws should not be read and understood in the same light as the

lawmakers meant them to be, and the people understood they were. Laws are not made on the spur of the moment, without due deliberation, discussions and explanations thereon. The people, through the press, learn for what the law was enacted and how it was meant to be interpreted. Nevertheless, the intent and object of a law has been cast aside and even ignored by some of these appointed judges, who are responsible in a way to none, and more especially if the judge should happen to be one of the ex-political "wire pullers." It has only been too often that justice in court has been the exception and not the rule.

When a federal judge does not interpret the object and intent of a law the same as the people, the press that explained it, the body of men that enacted it, and the chief executive that signed it, it is high time to call that judge to a halt. Such a judge should not be tolerated on the bench, but should be discharged. There are many high minded, honorable and well qualified men in this land who should be given the position instead of these dishonest men.

The fact is appreciated that the trouble does not always lie with the judges. There have been judges who have called the people's attention time and again to the fact that the law does not permit the court sufficient freedom to do justice. The technical, narrow terms used in the framing of the law places the court in a helpless position to do justice, and the decision is nothing more nor less than a legalized lawlessness, or in other words an empty court mockery. This is a fault of the lawmakers themselves.

The new method will obliterate all these difficulties and faults in the judicial department. After it

has been established and the judges serve under resignation as any other officer, they will then no longer dare to construe a law so as to miss the object and intent, same as was intended by the lawmakers and understood by the people. A closer union will be brought about between the people and this most important department of our Government. The courts' highest aim will be to do justice to the greatest masses of the people, slighting none. The Government, as well as the people, will then be protected.

In course oftime, when the good results of the new method have been felt and thoroughly demonstrated, it is the writer's belief that all the appointments deemed necessary by the people will pass into their hands, even to that of the position of a country postmaster.

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE.

All men and women who are patriotic, who have not lost faith in the masses of the people, who believe in the people's honesty and justice, who believe in a government of the people, by the people and for the people, who believe that the people have advanced and are steadily advancing in Christianity and civilization, who believe the old political system has been outlived, who believe in the ability of the people to progress, who believe that the people are capable of self government and who believe in the four great rights of the people, as exemplified in the new method, viz.: First, to express their will and wish at any time to their representatives; second, right of the representatives to consult their constituents at any time; third, right of

the people to be the ruling factor on appointments, and fourth, the right of the people to discharge any officer who fails to do his duty, by accepting his resignation, all being accomplished through an orderly way, are hereby invited to carefully study the new method, and weigh all points in favor of it and those opposed to it. If in favor, then join or organize a Silent Voters organivation in your respective voting precincts. Let us, for the love of our country and justice to ourselves, put the new method into operation. Give it a fair trial. If established, public conscience will become a strength in public affairs for the good of all. It will restore respect for the inherited rights and doctrine of self government. Duty must precede right. Sow first, then reap. The efforts and sacrifices which it does require are small compared to the rewards which one will reap. United action is a necessity. The Silent Voters ought to be organized alike, strike together and hit the same spot. No man or woman should hesitate to become a member of the Silent Voters organization.

MAKE USE OF IT.

All aspirants for some public office are hereby invited to voluntarily tender their resignations to the people, and cause said fact to be made known. Even officers whose terms do not expire for some time and who have faith in their constituents, are also welcome to make us of the new method. Also all the political chairmen of the various political parties in county, state and nation, irrespective of political party faith, are invited to make use of the new method. Assist the people in organizing Silent Voters organizations.

The people will certainly appreciate your friendship and you will thus add strength to yourself and party.

Should those who aspire to public office and public favor be in doubt as to whether the people will or will not approve and adopt the new method, the writer suggests that a test be made of it in a practical way. It will cost you nothing, nor do you harm, and if the new method becomes a success it will stand to your credit forever. Announce yourself as a candidate and accept the four people's rights brought out in the new method, and declare publicly that you are willing to serve under resignation if elected, and that you are ready to tender your resignation and place it in the hands of the Silent Voters Political Council as soon as they are ready to receive it. Explain to the people that you are perfectly willing for them to accept your resignation at any time that you fail to do your full public duty entirely to their satisfaction. Then watch results. You will certainly not lose any votes; the people will form a better opinion of you and will speak better of you and become interested in your political success.

Should your opponents refuse to tender their resignations and oppose the new method, and thereby make an unquestionable impression on the people, simply let them alone, it is in your favor. Let your opponent take the old political road, let him make all sorts of promises and pledges, let them accuse you and "throw mud" at you in the old fashioned way. Do not strike back at them, but simply deal with the people and rely upon their intelligence. Show your opponent up in the light of one having no confidence in the people, on account of having refused to tender his

resignation. Point to your resignation and show them that if you are elected they are master all the time, but if your opponent is elected they become the servants on election day. Tell them that if you fail to do your duty entirely to their satisfaction you are most willing to step down and out. The people can readily judge between two candidates if one offers to serve under resignation during his term of office, if elected, and is willing to place said resignation in their hands, and one who has refused to do so; as to who is their genuine friend and representative. Do not fear as to your opponent; the people will take care of you on election day.

It makes no difference to what political party one belongs or in what county or state one resides. Do not argue politics, as is the custom of the present system, but go right ahead, making yourself useful by helping the people to organize Silent Voters organizations. Point out to the people that this is a representative form of government, and that the people have a just right to be honestly and justly represented by their public servants.

Should your political opponent also tender his resignation, then see to it that you were first, and looked upon as having set your opponent a good example. It certainly will stand to your credit and do you good, besides winning the gratitude of the people. Do not fail to take advantage of this opportunity. Help the people to organize and they will help you. Write to temporary Silent Voters headquarters for necessary blanks, etc., which will be sent to you free of charge.

INFORM THE PEOPLE.

The Silent Voters who are the first to organize should meet from time to time for the purpose of fully acquainting the people with the new method and also to increase the membership. Local papers should be kept informed of the meetings and of what was accomplished. The new method should be taught to the people. There are two sides to it, one the right and the other the wrong. If the new method is right and just and effective, it certainly is the people's duty to accept it by joining the Silent Voters. If it is wrong, unjust and ineffective, they should oppose it, but it has been proven that it is not wrong, unjust or ineffective, and what is more, it is at least as good as the old political system. A trial should certainly be given it. To the mind of the writer there can only be two classes of people in regard to the new method, those who favor it and those who oppose it.

All those who favor honesty, purity and uprightness in public affairs; who believe in the people exercising the four rights of the new method, viz.: First, to make their will and wish known to their representatives; second, representatives may consult the people; third, people ruling factor on appointments, and fourth, the people's right to discharge public officials, are in favor of the new method, and those who are in favor ofthe old political system, ruled by party bosses, in which there is no method by which the people can make their will and wish known to their Government; no way by which the representative can consult the people; no voice on appointments, no effective way to keep down corruption in public affairs, no way to ob-

literate bribing, boodling and grafting, and all other kinds of abuses, wrongs and crimes in governmental affairs, and in which women have no voice whatever, are against the new method.

The Silent Voter should prove to the people that the new method is the proper solution to the old political system, and that one must either accept it or oppose it. There is no middle or neutral ground on which to stand. If a man or woman says they are opposed to the new method, one may have a well founded reason, and even positive proof, that they have been benefited in some way or other by corruption in public affairs, or they have expectations of getting a chance to practice dishonesty in public affairs.

LEAD IN REFORM.

This reform, like all other reforms, must be taken up and carried out by the most enlightened and intelligent men and women of our country. It may seem impossible to some to form a Silent Voters organization in every precinct of the land. Let that not discourage you in the least. Take hold of this method regardless of political party faith, and organize Silent Voters, if only a few precincts in a county, or a few counties in a state, or a few states in the Nation. The effect for the better will be felt immediately, especially in those counties and states where the political parties are of equal strength. The parties will not dare to ignore the Silent Voters.. It is not absolutely necessary to have organizations in all the precincts of the county. The new method will work just the same. It can be used locally in city, county or

state. It can be used at the very first election held in precinct, county or state, and its merits tested. If the officers of a county or state or city are all honest, so much the better, it is then the people's duty to uphold it; if some are dishonest the new method will hold them in due bounds and correct the evil. Take the lead, then, all honest, upright, patriotic men and women, work hand in hand for the welfare of yourselves and the government you support. Invite neighbors and friends to follow and help you.

PUBLIC PRESS.

The public press should take an active part in the new method. The attitude taken by the press will show the people the position of the paper on the rights of the people. This country is already full of publications that have battled faithfully for the people and their just rights, and have labored for honesty in public affairs. Some of the papers have come close onto the ideas embodied in the new method, and have thereby helped to clear the road for the people to follow the more readily and grasp the truths. For instance, many publications have made the following requests of their readers: "Write to your Congressman." "Write to your Senator." "Make your will and wish known to them." "Ask them to vote for this bill or vote against that bill." "Let your member in Congress know that you are watching him, and that you rely upon him to represent you correctly on this important measure." "A few words will be sufficient, if several sign the postal card, so much the better; the expense is trivial, but the result may be of inestimable value." Publications of this class will certainly favor the new meth-

od and be on the side of the Silent Voters. They will be an inestimable help in driving out blindness and ignorance; strengthen duty owed to one's self and the Government, renew degenerated patriotism, awaken self conscience and faith and restore new hopes in the "dont's care" or "what's the use" class. No reform can at the present age, be successfully accomplished without the aid of these friendly publications.

There will in all probability be plenty of publications which will oppose the new method. Their strength and influence should not be underestimated. They may claim it is unjust, unlawful or ineffective, all of which should be promptly answered, clearly and correctly. They may point out to the people defects, errors and mistakes, but the people should not forget that, as members of the Silent Voters, they are the masters and are in a position to correct any and all defects, errors and mistakes just as soon as discovered.

These antagonistic publications can not really be blamed for the position taken. They are either the secret tools of corrupt officials or are instrumental in corruption whereby they have become wealthy. They are selfish and narrow minded, they judge the people by their stomach and pocketbook and not by their heart and mind. They are disinterested in the welfare of the mass of people.

OLD POLITICAL SYSTEM VS. NEW METHOD

It is a well known fact that our officers in our Legislatures are left in the dark and they become the prey of the professional lobbyist. They help to elect the Legislature by furnishing campaign money or paying campaign expenses. The Legislator then is already

under some obligation to the lobbyist, who, with a little more influence, is able to get anything he desires. The officer's ignorance of the will and wish of the people is a good excuse for him to serve the lobbyist.

Under the new method the Legislators are under obligation to the people, who hold their resignation. The lobbyist or special privilege seeker will not pay campaign expenses, and if he should he would face that uncertainty of the Legislator keeping his position, that he would not dare risk his money or wit. If a Legislator would sell out it would be a very hard matter for him to deliver the goods. In a very short time the lobbyist would be conspicuous on account of his absence. No matter how much money would be expended by the lobbyist in a Legislature, or any other law making body, it would not affect the conscientious will and wish of the people. Bribing and boodling will entirely lose their effect if the Silent Voters make their will and wish known to their representatives. The representatives would be forced to obey the people or else suffer the penalty, that of being discharged.

It has been said that railroad officials were furnishing the members of Legislatures with passes, and that it was a bribe. Several states have enacted laws against it, as if that would put a stop to it. Every person will acknowledge that just as long as bribes have an effect, or that public officers are in a position to sell the right conferred upon them by the people, just so long will bribing and boodling continue. The great trouble with our present political system is that the politicians have it under their sway. They do not desire to blot out all official corruption. They advo-

cate certain reforms from time to time, in which carefully planned loopholes are left that will do away with certain evils; yet they are careful enough not to go beyond and destroy it all, and the people catch on. As soon as their reform has been enacted into law they come back at the people again and tell them honestly that the law is defective and ineffective and that it needs fixing and patching. For instance, take the interstate commerce law, that was created years ago. The people were told that it would be a good thing. As soon as it was established and put into operation it was said to be defective and ineffective, which has been kept up to the present day. There must be a reason for all this.

Were party rulers ever heard to advocate an orderly method whereby the people could express their will and wish to their public servants, and they, in turn, could ascertain the opinion of their constituents in order to serve them better? The reader has undoubtedly heard, "Back to the people," "Connection with the people" and "In touch with the people," but he has never heard the political rulers advocate an orderly method to that effect. The reason is that the political bosses do not desire the people connected any closer with their government than at present. They fear that the corruption in public affairs might be disturbed and they forced out of a job. Correctly have they judged. The political rulers do not desire any disturbance after they have once taken their oath of office until their term expires, which period may be referred to as the corruption period. They wish to continue to use the people as their voting stock, and carry them to the polls and even pay them a little

something for their vote, thus continuing their own prosperity in the face of destruction to the people. The new method abolishes this corruption, not by force or even by the enactment of a simple law, but simply by letting the people as a whole exert their inherited rights. Just as long as the corruption period lasts, just so long will the party rulers be safe in their dishonesty. The Silent Voters' power covers completely the period from the time an officer takes his oath of office until his term expires. Members of the Silent Voters organization do not forfeit any of their rights on account of casting a ballot on election day. They are just as strong the day after election as the day before, and their influence is just as great. They work in strict harmony with the political party in power, striving toward that which is of the best interest to state and nation.

A careful study of the subject of the last twenty years has convinced the writer of two things:

1. That our public servants have been underestimated on the point of honesty and integrity.

2. The demoralizing influences of the old political system have been estimated entirely too lightly. One is safe to say that ninety per cent of the public servants are at heart honest and upright and would cheerfully and willingly strive to do their full duty at all times if they only had a means of guidance. They have become a product of their environment. They are clad in uncertainty, every move they make they have no assurance that it meets with the support and approval of their constituents. They labor under a disadvantage which should not be tolerated any longer.

Yes, they may write to some of their constituents whom they may know, and ascertain their opinion, but how much better would it be if there was a way whereby they could obtain the will and wish of all their constituents, with but very little trouble to themselves and the people, and yet be sure of results.

Under the old political system men are forced to do things, in order to become nominated as candidates or elected to office, and even during their term of office, of which they would not think of doing if they could help themselves. During the campaign the candidates must submit to the gravest of abuses. Their honesty, as well as their good intentions, are questioned. Their good name is defamed. They are proven, so to speak, immoral and their word is unreliable. "Mud slinging" of the dirtiest kind is indulged in. They accuse each other of being thugs, thieves and highway robbers. They apparently prove beyond a reasonable doubt of one another, that the party to which they belong is untrustworthy, that it is the party of corruption, and if delegated to power, the whole nation will go to the dogs. Such is what the voter must listen to. Between the accusers he must choose. All he gets is an endless line of promises and pledges, which, as soon as election is safely over, are broken and forgotten.

Weak minded people are excited by the creation of party hatred and party prejudices. Some are worked into a fever heat, so that when, on election day, they come to cast their vote, they are blind to everything. Such a condition of affairs cannot last. No relief is as yet offered by any political party. The

new method, herewith proposed, in time will do away with all this that is objectionable.

This old political system has no constitutional or statutory origin; it is a voluntary organization. Its usefulness has been outlived. That public officers can sell the people out to the highest bidder, or misrepresent them to their hearts' content, does not fit the present age. We have already received all from the old system that is coming to us. Prominent lecturers and writers have honestly tried to repair the lost motion of the old political machine, but so far have completely failed. The old machine is too far out of date to be used at the present age. New political parties have been formed, but with no great success. They have failed to strike at the root of the evil. One of the evils of the present day, upheld by some of our statesmen, and by which a great many of the people have been fooled, is that all reform must come from the top and then grow downward to the masses, which is in direct antagonism to our theory of self-government. All genuine reform must come from the people and then grow upward. The old political party machinery has been completely outlived and its parts worn out beyond repair.

The old political parties can no more repair it than a surgeon can perform a surgical operation on his own diseased internals. It must be done by other surgeons. So with the old political system. The people themselves must take the matter in hand. There is entirely too much lost motion and waste of power; it is even a waste of time to try to fix it. Whenever a machine of any kind fails to do good work or there is too much lost motion, and consequently a waste of

power, it is promptly sent to the scrap pile and an up-to-date machine installed in its place. The political council and official resignation method is the up-to-date machine which is to supplant the old worn out one. In this up-to-date machine the lost motion and waste of power that were in the old one have been carefully taken up and placed in the hands of the people, where they of right belong. Voters must learn to stop casting "dead ballots" that disconnect them from their government. None but "live ballots" should be cast. Men and women should have their full right and voice in the government and make their influence felt at any time when they so desire, from the time a public officer takes the oath of office until his term expires. All this can only be accomplished by joining the Silent Voters organization. We have nothing more to expect from the old political system. It will bear no other fruit than it did in the past.

Do not let the prosperity and progress which was enjoyed during the past years under the old system deceive you. That we have prospered and progressed in spite of public corruption and misrepresentation is due to the people's thrift and good management in private affairs. No people can adjust themselves so quickly to changing conditions as the American people. While the people prospered, the cunning politician also prospered, until he has brought it to a political system that was never intended for the people. We have got all that was coming to us and have nothing more to expect as long as it lasts. The cunning party bosses have made it a system of the politician, by the politician and for the politician, with equal rights to none, and special privileges to all who are willing to

put up enough "stuff," and the people "be damned," keep still and bear it.

That this has become a fact was not due to the invention or creation of one political party or one man or set of men, but to the negligence of the people themselves. The power to right the existing wrongs and evils is in their hands, without the enactment of a law or even trouble.

Under the old system the tendencies have been towards more law, a law for anything and everything. The people have been overburdened with too much law. This is slowly and surely proving a hindrance to commercial progress. Our statutes are loaded down with the lawless laws. It is just as bad to have too much law as not enough. Under the new method a reaction would set in by which there would be more business freedom in every walk of life.

TENDENCIES OF NEW METHOD.

The people, under the new method, through their inter-agents, Precinct, County, State and National Political Councilmen, become the ruling power of the Government. The new rights and responsibilities will have a tendency to educate and enlighten them along another line. A careful and watchful eye will be kept upon all public affairs. They will receive a finer insight into the inner operations of our Government, and it will also create a greater respect for our public officials. The nation as a whole will be advanced several stages higher in the realm of civilization and science of self-government. Women will also have a full and equal part with men in keeping pure and upright

our public affairs. The religious and moral aspect of the people as a whole will be raised. The people's welfare, rather than their own personal interest, will be uppermost in the minds of public servants. Temptation to do wrong will be removed or else will be overbalanced by the fear of removal from office and the disgrace connected therewith.

DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION.

Every citizen, either male or female, should consider himself a committee of one to spread the new method and be instrumental in organizing Silent Voters organizations in every voting precinct of the country. It makes no difference to what political party one belongs, or of what belief, just so the four rights of the new method are accepted as necessary to the welfare of themselves and their posterity. After it is found that ten or more persons of a voting precinct are willing, or have been influenced in joining a Silent Voters organization, the temporary Silent Voters' headquarters should be informed of the fact and necessary rules and obligation blanks requested, which will be sent immediately, free of charge. A mass meeting of the precinct may then be called by some one. The obligation blanks are then distributed to those who have none. All signing the same, or having already signed the same and sent them in, become members of the Silent Voters of said precinct. A temporary chairman and clerk are elected, who serve only until after the annual election of the Precinct Political Councilman.

At the election of the Political Councilman the

Silent Voters membership is closed for one year. No one can become a member until the next annual political council election. It is therefore necessary for all the men and women to join the Silent Voters before or on the first annual political council election. Afterwards they will only be admitted on annual political council elections. It is not absolutely necessary to be present in person; all that is necessary is to have the obligation blank there properly signed on or before the day of the first Silent Voters annual political council election. No American citizen is barred from becoming a member of a Silent Voters organization in his respective precinct.

Each member is requested to pay thirty cents. This money is turned over to the clerk, who keeps a record of it. The thirty cents is divided up into three funds, ten cents for the organization expenses; ten cents to assist the Political Council in performing its duties, and ten cents for the temporary Silent Voters' headquarters.

There are no other dues or fees except as the organization itself may decide. The taking of the obligation and payment of the assessment entitles one to become a member for life, providing one does his duty. In order to remain a member one must attend the annual Precinct Political Council election in person or else send word or a written notice to the effect that one desires to retain his voice and vote as a member. On failure to comply with this simple rule the member will be out until the next annual Political Council election.

HEADQUARTERS.

In order to bring about an equality in all the Silent Voters organizations of the country a temporary central point from which the work may be directed is a necessity. In accord with this, then, Silent Voters' headquarters will be opened under proper supervision. From this office the work of putting the new method into operation will be directed. When all the Political Councilmen have been elected, which will be prior to the general election of 1908, and the Silent Voters organization on a permanent basis, the temporary headquarters will then be discontinued and a full report of the work accomplished made to the Silent Voters through the Political Council.

Headquarters will be maintained by the ten cents per member, that each precinct organization will be required to send in. For this money the organizations will be sent necessary printed rules and regulations, obligation and sample resignation blanks. Also the certificate of membership will be issued to the precinct, county and state organizations.

The precinct certificate of membership is the credential of the Precinct Political Councilman. It entitles him to become a member of the County Political Council, which elects a County Political Councilman. This certificate shows the number of members and by this number the Precinct Political Councilman votes. The Councilman, voting by the whole number of members, brings about an equal representation. One member's vote counts just as much as any other member's vote.

A county certificate of membership is issued to a

county after all rules have been complied with. This certificate is the credential of the County Political Councilman and entitles him to become a member of the State Political Council, which elects a State Political Councilman. This certificate shows the whole number of voters in the county, and by this number the County Political Councilman votes and reports. A certificate of membership is also issued to the state. It shows the state membership of Silent Voters. It is the State Political Councilman's credential.

By issuing these certificates of membership an equality and regularity will be established which could not be secured otherwise. Only one organization in a precinct will be recognized.

Temporary rules and regulations will be sent with each Political Council election call. This call is supposed to be issued from headquarters whenever a precinct has notified it of its readiness. It is not deemed necessary to hold the Council election of all on the same day while the people's organization is still in the embryo stage. Call for a County Political Councilman election will also be made by headquarters when the proper showing has been made by the various Silent Voters organizations of a county. Same way with the state and nation. These elections must all be held a sufficient length of time prior to the general election of public officers, so as to give the Councilmen time to do their work and report to the people on the candidates who have voluntarily tendered their resignations.

At temporary headquarters able lawyers will be maintained who have made the legality of the Political Council and official resignation method a study. The resignations of the candidates are to be so drawn

that they will be in accordance with the laws of the different states and positively binding, taking effect as soon as accepted by the Silent Voters. There ought to be no opening for litigation. Should, however, questions arise among the Silent Voters of any precinct as to the legality of certain parts or points in the different states, it should be made known to headquarters at once, where legal advisers will interpret it and send opinion back free of charge. The purpose is to make the new method agree with all the present laws of the Government.

STANDING SALARY.

It is the writer's firm belief that just as soon as the people and public officers become acquainted and convinced of the benefits of the new method and see the necessity and usefulness of the Political Councilmen, the Political Council will be placed on a standing salary, same as other public officers. One-half of the stealings and grafting which could not exist under the new method in public affairs, would more than pay the Councilmen a good annual salary.

Their salary could also be saved in court expenses, resulting from the prosecution of public corruption and other useless trials. Their salary could be more than saved by discharging useless inspectors, secret spies, investigating committees, standing boards and other commissions, together with artificial and purposely created offices for party politicians, which would not be needed if the people were allowed to help govern. Putting the Political Council on a standing salary will be one of the best investments the people ever made. The contentment it will bring to the people and satisfaction to honest public officers will more than be equal to the trouble and expenditure of maintaining the Political Council.

THE MASSES ARE READY.

The great trouble with the people of the United States has been that they have been politically asleep. This would not be so bad, for all nations sleep once in a while, but the American people have been sleeping on their own just political rights, and in their sleep dreaming of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, with equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Public writers and speakers have repeated the dream so often that the people believed it to be the truth, and that all that was necessary was to keep on voting. But it will surely remain an idle dream as long as the old political system will last. Under the new method this ideal dream will become a living fact, so plain that every man and woman can see, hear and feel it.

It may seem strange to the reader that the four rights as contained in the new method were not put into usage long ago. It need not surprise anyone, for the longer we live under our theory of government the better will it be understood, just as a child in its development will understand more fully, as it grows older, the teachings of its parents. One hundred years ago progress in all its divisions was slow. Government affairs were small compared to those of today. "Secure the blessings of liberty" was a new thing. Fifty years ago there were other human rights in the states and nation that occupied the attention of the people. The "blessings of liberty" were just being settled and understood. Twenty-five years ago communication and transportation were yet lacking to make the new method practicable, although it was then already

a necessity. Only in the last five years have those advancements been made that are necessary and essential to the perfect work of the new method. A wonderful change has been wrought among the common people during these last few years. Through the rural free delivery, rural telephone lines, and all other agents of communication has it only become possible to put the new method into practice.

The new method could not be a success without a quick and close communication of one part of the county with another. We have this communication now, yet no method. The people know what they want individually, but they do not know what they want collectively. There is no way to impart their desires to the Government, and it is not reasonable to expect, at this day and age, that our statesmen and representatives can guess correctly the will and wish of their constituents. The action of the statesmen of the last twenty years reminds one of a man who has lost his way on a cold winter's day. Rather than stop and freeze to death, he keeps on moving, even if he feels that he is getting farther away from home with every step. Just so have our statesmen been wandering; rather than stand still and become politically chilled to death, they keep on going, even if they know they are wrong. What a help the new method would be to them.

But with all the great progress made in the field of communication, there is something lacking. The people's attention had to be aroused and acquainted with the fact that obedience of law and order, honesty in public affairs, was necessary to their welfare and happiness. This also has taken place in the last few

years. This country is fast approaching the close of a great political epoch in the onward march of its political history. The mind of the nation has been turned to a higher common ground. The people have been awakened. It is nothing new to find a mossbacked Democrat a regular subscriber to a Republican newspaper, or a standpat Republican reading Democratic papers. The search for facts and truths has only begun, and it will not stop until the people find what they desire. They have been reminded of their duty which they owe to themselves and their Government, and the just rights they have and are entitled to in return for their duty. The great mass of the common people everywhere are restless and dissatisfied with the present existing political rule. They long to use their voice in public affairs. In other wrods, they have been prepared and are ready for the new method. They are willing to furnish a clear light whereby all will be able to see. They will never ask for anything that can not be enjoyed by all or that would be detrimental to business or progress. Our Government, then, will be run on a "live and let live" basis.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Public speakers and writers have, from time to time, pointed to public opinion as a factor in public affairs as being just and right and that it could be safely accepted by representatives and rulers. Public opinion is a voluntary force which arises from the people's conscience. It is a power and a higher law in itself. It cannot be controlled or regulated by constitutional or statutory laws any more than a law can

affect an individual's conscience. Public opinion has no equal on the point of obedience to law and order. Organized public opinion is a product of the present advanced stage of Christianity and civilization. The masses of people have ripened, step by step, until the time is at hand for them to voluntarily accept the Political Council and Official Resignation Method, which places the four unused people's rights in their hands to be used at once, and at any time and everywhere, thus harnessing and utilizing organized public opinion for the welfare of our nation.

Should any reader doubt the capability of the people to properly handle organized public opinion, harnessed and handled through the four great rights by the Political Council, as directed by the people, the following facts are cited as proof:

1. The religious institutions in all parts of the land, in which the best there is in man is trained and cultivated, and the numerous churches in which the eternal truth, honesty and justice is taught.

2. The great number of public institutions of learning and higher education, which are open to both the rich and poor alike.

3. The powerful public press, which is sent crisscross through the country, on overland fliers, and delivered daily at the door of the people at a price too small to mention, in which every single phase of life is minutely discussed, from the cradle to the grave.

4. The very small percentage of illiterate in our population.

These facts stand as a guarentee that the people are ready and capable of handling collected public

opinion. No one should hesitate to accept the new method.

If a public officer's resignation is accepted and he becomes discharged by public opinion, it should not be looked upon as a punishment. The Silent Voters organization does not punish officers, it only accepts a resignation when an officer breaks faith or is contemplating such. If he is punished, it is by his own conscience, for which the Silent Voters are not responsible.

When we look back to barbarous times, when public opinion was undeveloped and the ruling factor among the masses was the animal instinct, we notice that when those public rulers became corrupt, oppressive and burdensome to the people, it would be borne from week to month, from year to generation, until a stage had been reached where it could be borne no longer; then, like the wild beast of the forest, after being pursued until all vitality is exhausted, it turned on its pursuers, ready to defend itself with the last sparks of life, so the masses would turn and seek vengeance by beheading their rulers and all those who had been oppressive to them. With public opinion thoroughly in harness, a revolution is avoided and is not necessary to right the wrong. The people do not have to wait until they are overburdened with broken pledges, broken laws and other crimes committed by public officers before they make a demonstration. Beforehand they, in a simple and commonsense way, test the conscience of a candidate or ruler by handing him a resignation blank for him to sign. It will bear fruit at once; a candidate who is planning to be dishonest and corrupt if elected, will not tender his resignation, especially when it is to take effect as soon as accepted

by the people at any time during his term of office.

Note how much better this method is than beheading them. Note how much better it is than to convict them and send them to state's prison for life, where the State has to feed them.

Note how much better it is to deal with them before they break faith rather than expensive lawsuits. Note with what ease and fairness it is accomplished, and how much better it is for both the people and their public servants. And lastly, note what an effective and powerful protection, with very little expense and trouble, it is to the people.

Public opinion, from a mere animal instinct, has developed, from century to century, step by step, keeping pace with the slow progress of civilization. The exact role it played in shaping and moulding the world's history is very little known and understood. It probably existed in the very primitive stage of man, developing slowly with his progress until, up to the present age, it is recognized by progressive thinkers and public men as a factor, as a power, as an unwritten law in itself. It is beyond repeal or amendment. It is the nation's conscience. It is the engendered Christian teachings, containing all the finer virtues and moral duties and higher achievements of civilization. It is the inner voice of a nation, same as conscience is the inner voice of man, and when it speaks it should not be ignored or trampled underfoot.

Public opinion should not longer be ignored and allowed to go to waste in the United States. It should be collected by the Political Council and utilized for its welfare and safety. Yes, the citizens are capable, ripe and ready to utilize public opinion and apply it to public affairs for the welfare and benefit of all.

CONCLUSION.

The new method has been exemplified thoroughly enough so that it may be readily understood and comprehended. It is hoped that its usefulness and the necessity of its establishment can clearly be seen. We have shown that no new laws in state or nation are necessary, either to put it into operation or make it effective. The people must unite for political self-defense by forming Silent Voters organizations. Women as well as men are eligible to become Silent Voters.

A Political Council is elected by the Silent Voters. It is the connecting link between the people and their Government. It is in entire control of the Silent Voters, serving under resignation to them. Through it, as agents, the people make use of, enorce and put into operation their present unused inherited rights, viz.:

1. The right of the people to express their will and wish to their representatives at any time.

2. The right of the representatives or any officers having a legislative power to consult their Silent Voter constituents.

3. The right of the people to be the ruling factor in appointments.

4. The people, possessing the right to discharge any unfaithful officer, through the Political Council, public opinion is harnessed and utilized.

It has been shown that it is not burdensome to public officers, but a help. It has been shown that the old political system has been outlived and that the people are desirous of a change, a change from corruption to honesty.

At present the better element of the people are

scattered, separated and divided between the various political parties. The politicians have not allowed them to unite. The new method makes it possible for them to unite for the common good. In short, under the new method the welfare and safety of the people will be the highest aim of those who govern.

We appeal to you, my readers, regardless of your political party faith, to carefully measure the truths, facts and common sense of the new method. Your conscience will be a safe guide with which to judge the Nation's Best Thought, or the Political Council and Official Resignation Method.

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Silent Voters Headquarters

are now established at Gutrie, Okla., under the supervision of August F. Severin.

Those contemplating organizing

Silent Voters Organizations

will be supplied with all necessary blanks and instructions as laid down in this Book by "SILENT VOTER" from these Headquarters.